



JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

A. JOEL FRANDSEN
State Forester/Division Director

NEWS RELEASE

March 5, 2007

Contact: Jim Springer (801) 538-5324

UTAH'S TOP FORESTER RETIRES

Leaves Final Message For All Who Care About Our Forests and Lands

Utah State Forester A. Joel Frandsen has announced that he will retire March 23, 2007. The departure marks an end to Frandsen's more than 40-year career caring for forests and rangelands in the Mountain West. Prior to becoming the Utah State Forester he made a career with the Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture, serving on six different national forests in four separate states.

Frandsen joined the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands in January 2002 and in May of that year was appointed State Forester and Division Director. The division has responsibility for state sovereign lands, wildland fire protection on state and private lands, urban and community forestry, forest stewardship, agro-forestry, forest legacy, and the Lone Peak Conservation Center.

"Joel has performed a stellar service for the citizens of Utah," said Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Mike Styler. "His dedication to the well-being of our lands is unparalleled." A national search has begun to select a replacement.

Frandsen has served on the State Fire Prevention Board and chaired the National Cooperative Fire Prevention Committee. He was affiliated with the National Association of State Foresters, Council of Western States Foresters, and the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition. He is also a member of the Society of American Foresters and the Society for Range Management.

"I would like to leave a parting thought for all who care about our forests, rangeland, and open space," said Frandsen. "Invasive plants are dominating many ecosystems and they are expanding. Aggressive action is needed and is starting to happen. Our private forest lands are being urbanized increasing fire risks and impacting watersheds," he added. "Our public forest lands are in bad shape but they could be correctable if they could be properly managed by professionals. If the current course is continued we will pay the price for many years to come."

Although he's retiring, Frandsen says he intends to keep active in natural resource issues. He's also an avid student of western history, legends and folktales and has written numerous articles on early outlaw-lawmen adventures. As a member of the Western Outlaw and Lawmen History Association and the Outlaw Trail History Association he says, "There's plenty to learn, talk and write about."

###

